

# PRESS RELEASE

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **HIGH OZONE LEVELS PREDICTED FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2009**

*Potential for high ground-level ozone readings may affect sensitive groups*

INDIANAPOLIS – The city of Indianapolis forecasts Friday, May 22, 2009 as a Knozone Air Quality Action Day for ozone. The region's air quality may become unhealthy for individuals who are sensitive to air pollutants, and is categorized as "orange" on the Air Quality Index (AQI).

Tomorrow's AQI forecast indicates that ground-level ozone levels will be elevated. Ground-level ozone is the key component in urban and regional smog. Smog is formed when harmful emissions from a variety of sources react with sunlight. Because heat and sunlight are important in its formation, ground-level ozone is more common from April through September.

Many scientific studies have associated ground-level ozone pollution with serious health problems, such as aggravated lung disease and decreased lung function, and it can trigger and intensify asthma attacks. Children, the elderly and people already suffering from lung disease are especially vulnerable to its effects.

Small changes in behavior on the part of individuals and businesses can prevent the formation of ground-level ozone pollution. The public is asked to follow these guidelines:

- Leave early to avoid the morning rush-hour.
- Avoid drive-thrus to prevent long idling.
- Carpool to work, lunch or school.
- Use public transportation whenever possible.
- Conserve electricity. Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.

Individuals – especially active children, the elderly and anyone suffering from lung disease – should also monitor their health on Knozone Air Quality Action Days. People who have any concerns about how air pollution affects their health should seek the advice of a physician.

Knozone is a year-round voluntary air pollution reduction program for Indianapolis-Marion County. The program educates the public about the effects ground-level ozone (smog) and fine particles (soot) on public health and the environment and promotes clean air strategies that help clean the air. For more information, please visit [www.knozone.com](http://www.knozone.com) or call (317) 327-4AIR for current air quality information.

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Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October, 2008. SustainIndy is a bold and innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.